

REMARKS

Claims 17-29 are currently pending. Species (I), Claims 17-26, is elected in the instant application, without traverse. Claim 27 is a generic claim. Claim 17 is amended and Claims 28-29 are Withdrawn, leaving Claims 17-27 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

In an Office Action dated March 22, 2005 the Examiner holds that the application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention, the species deemed to lack unity of invention under PCT Rule 13.1.

Particularly, the Examiner identifies a Species (I) as including Claims 17-26 drawn to a growth medium with non sphagnum-peat and Species (II) as including Claims 28 and 29 drawn to growth medium with coconut fiber. Claim 27 is noted as being generic. The Examiner contends that these enumerated groups do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding technical feature, particularly that Species I contains non sphagnum-peat as the special technical feature while Species II is silent on the material, and Species II contains coconut fiber as the special technical feature while Species I is silent on the material.

Claim 17 is herein amended to include a non sphagnum-peat material, the material further recited as a non sphagnum-peat. Support for the Amendment is at least found in the originally filed specification and claims, particularly Page 2, line 32 to Page 3, line 2 and Claim 27. Reconsideration and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested. Consideration and allowance of Claims 17-29 is respectfully requested. The foregoing is believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action.

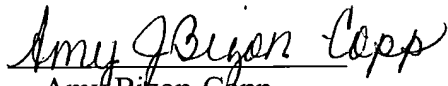
No new matter is added by way of the present Amendment and Remarks as support is found throughout the originally filed specification, claims and drawings.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the below-listed phone number regarding this Response or otherwise concerning the present application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any necessary extension of time required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) or 1.136(b) which may be required for entry and consideration of the present Reply.

If there are any charges due with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicant's attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
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